

Drought conditions update
New Flood Management Website
New Flood Condition Levels reference webpage
DELTA Exhibit at State Fair

Here are the current statewide conditions:

For the Northern Sierra, the March through July total precipitation was only 3.4", the driest on record since 1921. 2007 and 2008 are the ninth driest two-year period in 88 years of record. Southern California experienced its driest year on record last year.

Statewide runoff for the end of this water year (Sept. 30, 2008) is forecast to be 57% of average. The Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems, which represent the bulk of the state's reservoir inflow, will likely have two-year ('06-'08) streamflow near the lowest 10% of historical range.

Reservoir Conditions:

Current storage percent of capacity; Folsom 32%, Shasta 37%, Oroville 33%, San Luis 15%.

Statewide average reservoir storage was 75% of average at the end of July. It is projected to drop to near 70% of average at the end of the water year. Projected end of water year percent of average storage for a few big-name reservoirs: Folsom; 54%, Shasta 50%, Oroville 49%. While those three are much lower than the statewide average projections, there are many reservoirs across the state that are faring better.

By the end of this water year, Lake Oroville will reach its lowest carryover storage since the drought of 1977. By the end of this calendar year, Lake Oroville may fall to a new record low. The previous record low was set on September 8, 1977 at 882 Thousand Acre Feet (TAF).

Long-range weather outlooks will be discussed in a September newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENT: New web page. Visit the new Flood Management site:
<http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/>

The new look includes an icon on the left side of the page indicating current flood condition status. Similar to a threat level color-code, this tab will indicate current response status for flood events, and will be available year-round. Click on the green FloodCon 1 icon, or click here:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/floodcon.cfm>

for more information on this useful quick reference code system. The conditions status page will provide information on events that DWR is responding to at present, approaching weather conditions that require additional monitoring, incident command deployment, etc.

The DWR State Fair Exhibit this year is all about the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. In "California's World Class Delta" you'll enter a habitat environment, discover all there is to do and see in the Delta, find out why its so valuable to California, and get a close up look at reptiles! Brad's World animal group is our partner this year. DWR stage presentations are made daily on various topics; Levees, Delta Showdown Game Show, Ecosystem, Fish, Climate, Drought, and the Tides. There are also frequent reptile and conservation presentations.

Join us at the fair through September 1st. The booth is centrally located in the air-conditioned Building B, with the counties' exhibits.

Weather and Climate Newsletters are now archived at the California Data Exchange Center weather page:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/weather.html>

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